

BAY PORT, MICHIGAN, AUGUST 30, 1894.

Improvement of that size could be insisted on

again

Position of
fisheries

Near the mouth of Saginaw Bay on the east side. The fisheries are in the adjacent waters, on the shoal ground, which they cover more or less out to the edge of channel, running out from off the mainland or from the three islands. Use nothing practically but pounds, which are fished chiefly for pickerel in the spring and herring in the fall. Incidental catches are whitefish and trout. Perch, suckers, etc., are taken in considerable numbers. The main fishery is for fish which cannot be taken in the whitefish (3 1-2 inch) mesh. They fish presumably for herring, the mesh being 2 1-2 when new, only 2 or less after tarring, etc.

P. chiefly
walleye
herring
w. trout
perch
suckers

P. mesh

Informers

P.
mesh

Have interviewed, James, John and Robert Gillingham, and Louis Darbey. It is evident that a larger mesh than 2 1-2 inches

cannot be insisted on, but it might be an improvement if that size could be insisted on after tarring, or when actually in use.

Jas. Gillingham says the herring gill too much in that size.

Herring
It is impossible to learn anything about the average or range in size of the herring. They are said to be more abundant than ever, and they want the right to take them as they please. We can say nothing about this without investigating during an actual fishing season, October and November.

*Catch
unpacked
perch
mullage
quantity
size*
Saw a catch today by James Gillingham. *J. G.*
Filled about 3 half-barrels, mainly yellow perch of rather small size. Nearly 1-3 were pickerel, of which one weighed perhaps more than a pound. The remainder would have gone 2 to 4 to a lb. Certainly none should be used weighing less than 1 lb., and it is possible that the limit should be placed

higher. ~~g. close season would affect them very~~

Perch
valley
It is doubtful if the small perch should be taken. They say they do not need protection, and they are evidently still abundant, but it looks as though they were catching too many little ones. ~~important fishes, but~~

very abundant size
mesh
Only relatively few whitefish are said to be taken, and it is claimed that they are mostly of good size. This could be proved only after an inspection. They are taken in the 2 inch mesh, which would catch very small ones, and it is in just such places as this that a strict outlook would have to be kept to prevent their capture. Most fishermen would place the lowest size at 1 lb. dressed, but give way to the argument that 1 1-4 lbs. dressed, 1 1-2 lbs. round would be better, and give more thorough protection. They are not much interested in whitefish here, and less in lake trout.

min. size
not imp.
front
Sturgeon
Sturgeon have ceased to be an item, and

a spring close season would affect them very little.

walleye

They do not fish off this place during the spawning season of the pickerel.

fykes

All say that the fykes, being set in very shallow water, take no important fishes, but this subject is worthy of investigation.

walleye
River

It will be important to ascertain if young pickerel are taken in the rivers at Bay City and above as described by Louis Dubay . If they are the same should be stopped in the interest of the bay and lake.

As regards pickerel, should this bay be considered from the international standpoint? Do these pickerel affect those in the lake? Do they pass out and along the lake?

(Richard Rathhun.)

